

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 SY-04 INR-10 NSC-07 CIAE-00

SAM-01 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1656

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 630

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR CHINESE AIRCRAFT CREW MEMBERS

REF: PEKING 543

1. ON 13 APRIL MFA INFORMED USLO VERBALLY THROUGH LOCAL EMPLOYEE THAT DISCREPANCIES IN BIRTH DATES WERE CAUSED BY USE OF SOLAR AND LUNAR CALENDARS FOR BIRTH DATES ON DIFFERENT PASSPORTS. THE DIFFERENCE IN BIRTH PLACE NOTED BY USLO WAS CAUSED BY OLD CHINESE CUSTOM OF PUTTING DOWN A PERSON'S NATIVE PLACE WHEN HE WAS ACTUALLY BORN IN ANOTHER LOCATION, OR A PERSON BORN IN PEKING COULD PUT DOWN TIENSIN AS HIS BIRTH PLACE IF TIENSIN WAS ACTUALLY THE PLACE WHERE HE SPENT MOST OF HIS LIFE.

2. WE CHECKED LUNAR/SOLAR DATES AS APPLIED TO THREE CASES IN QUESTION: LIU CHUNG-FU, KUNG TAO-MING, AND WANG CHIN-LIANG AND FOUND IN NO RPT NO CASE WOULD ALLEGED USE OF SOLAR AND LUNAR DATES ACCOUNT FOR DISCREPANCIES. FOR INSTANCE, (A) FOR LIU, IF ASSUMED 11 OCTOBER 29 IS SOLAR, LUNAR EQUIVALENT IS 9 SEPT. 29. IF ASSUMED 11 OCT. 29 IS LUNAR, SOLAR EQUIVALENT IS 11 NOV. 29. IN NEITHER CASE IS CORRESPONDING BIRTH DATE 6 JAN. 29 AS CARRIED IN HIS OTHER PASSPORT. (B) FOR KUNG, IF ASSUMED 15 FEB. 42 IS SOLAR, LUNAR EQUIVALENT IS 1 JAN. 42. IF ASSUMED 15 FEB. 42, CONFIDENTIAL

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LUNAR, SOLAR EQUIVALENT IS 31 MARCH 42. AGAIN IN NEITHER CASE

IS CORRESPONDING DATE 5 JAN. 42 AS CARRIED IN HIS OTHER PASSPORT. (C) FOR WANG, IF ASSUMED 24 MARCH 39 IS SOLAR, LUNAR EQUIVALENT IS 4 FEB. 39. IF ASSUMED 24 MARCH 39 IS LUNAR, SOLAR EQUIVALENT IS 13 MAY 39. CORRESPONDING DATE 15 MARCH 39 IN OTHER PASSPORT DOES NOT FIT EITHER CASE. ABOVE SOLAR/LUNAR CONVERSIONS ARE ACCORDING TO CHINESE AMERICAN CALENDAR (CAC) FOR PERIOD 24 JANUARY 1849 TO FEB. 15, 1951. ACTUALY CHECKING WAS DONE BY HONG KONG CONGEN.

3. CHINESE NOTE REQUIRED VISAS FOR LIU, KUNG, WANG AND LI TAI-FU TO DEPART PEKING 20 APRIL 74 TO TRAVEL TO SEATTLE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM LOCAL BOEING REP THAT 707 SHOULD BE READY FOR PICK UP ABOUT MAY 7 AND CREW MUST BE IN SEATTLE AT LEAST TEN DAYS IN ADVANCE, THAT IS BY APRIL 27. IT APPARENTLY IS A MATTER OF SOME URGENCY THAT THE FOUR GO TO THE US TO PICK UP THE 707. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT THEY ALREADY HAVE MULTIPLE VISAS,GOOD FOR THREE MONTHS ISSUED IN THEIR OTHER PASSPORTS PER STATE 63141.
(THOSE WERE REGULAR PASSPORTS WITH D-1 OFFICIAL VISAS.)

4. USLO IS NOW IN POSSESSION OF THE FOUR CHINESE SERVICE PASSPORTS. WE HAD RETURNED THEM TO MFA WITH A NOTE ON 11 APRIL 74. THESE WERE THE PASSPORTS WHICH WERE RETURNED TO USLO WITH VERBAL EXPLANATION NOTED PARA 1 ON 13 APRIL 74.

5. USLO RECOMMENDS THAT CHINESE BE INFORMED THAT THE FOUR IN QUESTION CAN PROCEED TO THE US ON THE BASIS OF THE MULTIPLE VISAS ISSUED IN REGULAR PASSPORTS PRESENTED ON MARCH 29 AND THAT THEIR SERVICE PASSPORTS BE RETURNED. THIS WOULD SIDE-STEP ISSUE OF PASSPORT ANOMALIES. SIMULTANEOUSLY, USLO RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT ASK THE CONSULAR OFFICER OF THE PRCLO TO COME IN AND POINT OUT TO HIM DISCREPANCIES IN DATES ON VARIOUS PASSPORTS AND THAT CLARIFICATION GIVEN ON BASIS LUNAR/SOLAR CALENDAR USAGE WAS NOT ACCURATE. WE SUGGEST THAT IT ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT IN FUTURE, ACCORDING TO OUR REGULATIONS, WE WILL REQUIRE ACCURATE AND CONSISTENT BIRTH DATES AND PLACES.

6. OTHER ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE EITHER TO RETURN SERVICE PASSPORTS WITHOUT VISAS PENDING SOME RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTING
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DATA, IN WHICH CASE CONFRONTATION WITH MFA MIGHT ENSUE, OR TO ACCEPT MFA EXPLANATION AT FACE VALUE AND ISSUE VISAS IN SERVICE PASSPORTS. LATTER CASE WOULD INVOLVE CONSIDERABLE STRETCHING OF REGULATIONS.

7. GUIDANCE REQUESTED SOONEST.
BRUCE

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. TWOHIE.

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